

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05

CIAE-00 /060 W

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R 151404Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7919

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T CAIRO 14048

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG

SUBJECT: GOE REACTS TO ASAD ABSENCE FROM SUMMIT

REF (A) CAIRO 13995 (B) CAIRO 13958 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: WITH ASAD STICKING TO HIS DECISION NOT TO ATTEND SUMMIT,

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EGYPTIANS HAVE PUBLICLY HINTED THAT GOE REPRESENTATION WILL BE

AT LOW LEVEL AND HAVE WARNED THAT FATE OF SUMMIT WILL BE DECIDED
AT FONMINS CONFERENCE EVENING OCT. 15. SADAT SEEKS PRESSURE
OTHER POWERFUL ARABS FORCE ASAD TO COME, BUT SO FAR
WITHOUT RESULT. QADDUMI WANTS SUMMIT WITHOR WITHOUT ASAD.
GOE PUBLIC LINE CONTINUES TO BE ASAD IS AFRAID TO FACE
HIS ARAB BROTHERS IN VIEW HIS PARTNERSHIP WITH ISRAEL
AND JORDAN IN PLOT LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE. END
SUMMARY.

1. WITH ARAB LEAGUE FONMINS DUE CONVENE 1800 LOCAL OCT 15,
MORNING PRESS CARRIES OFFICIAL GOE WARNING THAT SAD'S NON-
ATTENDANCE AT SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, OCT 18, LIKELY
LEAD TO EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION TO CONVENING OF ARAB HEADS OF
STATE.

2. PREVIOUS EVENING FAHMY OFFICE DIRECTOR AL-BAZ HANDED
TO AMBASSADORS OF ARAB STATES (EXCEPT SYRIA, LIBYA AND
JORDAN) MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SADAT TO THEIR HEADS OF STATE.
PRESS DESCRIBES MESSAGE AS SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR RAPID ARAB
ACTION TO SOLVE CRISIS RESULTING FROM SYRIAN BOYCOTT OF CONFERENCE
AND OPEN WAY AGAIN TO JOINT ARAB EFFORTS TO STOP FIGHTING AND
PROTECT PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE FROM DANGER OF
SIEGE AND LIQUIDATION. FAHMY IS QUOTED AS SAYING EGYPT PLANS
PRESENT COMPREHENSIVE INITIATIVE TO SOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS AND
TOLD ARAB AMBASSADORS THAT EGYPT WILL RECONSIDER FORMATION OF
SUMMIT DEL IF SYRIA CONTINUES INSIST KHADDAM BE SARG'S REP.

3. FAHMY'S REMARKS DIFFERED FROM SCENAIRO WE HAD RECEIVED
EARLIER IN DAY (REF A) IN ONE ASPECT ONLY. PLANNED ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT ABSENCE OF ASAD WOULD MEA MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
RIAD WOULD LEAD GOE DEL WAS AMENDED SIMPLY TO INDICATE
THAT COMPOSITION OFGOE DEL WOULD BE RECONSIDERED. THIS
CHANGE, RIAD TOLD AMBASSADOR LAST EVENING, WAS AT HIS
URGENT REQUEST. RIAD SEEMED HIGHLY EMBARRASSED AT
NOTION HE WOULD DEPUTIZE FOR SADAT.

4. MORNING PRESS ALSO CARRIES VARIOUS REMARKS ATTRIBUTED
TO OFFICIAL SOURCES (PROBABLY EITHER FAHMY OR AL-BAZ)
DECALRING FATE OF SUMMIT WILL BE DECIDED AT FIRST
SESSION OF FONMINS CONFERENCE THIS EVENING AND THAT ASAD'D
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"EFFORT AVOID SUMMIT" STEMS FROM SENSE OF GUILT OR FEAR OF
ISOLATION AND CONFRONTATION. REFLECTING EARLIER REMARKS
MADE BY FAHMY TO AMBASSADOR, "ARAB CIRCLES" REPORTEDLY SAID
DECISION SEND KHADDAM CONFIRMS "FARCIAL" ATTITUDE OF SARG
SINCE KHADDAM WAS HEAD OF SARG DEL AT LAST ALC WHICH DECIDED
HOLD SUMMIT (IT IS WELL-KNOWN IN CAIRO THAT KHADDAM AGREED
AT THAT TIME THAT ASAD SHOULD ATTEND).

5. ATTENDEES AT FONMINS CONFERENCE SO FAR HAVING ARRIVED IN CAIRO ARE LIBYAN MFA ARAB AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, QATARI AMBASSADOR, PDRY FONMIN, AND OMANI REP. PAPERS PREDICT ARRIVAL THIS MORNING OF TUNISIAN FONMIN (WHO WILL PRESIDE), KHADDAM, KUWAITI MFA UNDERSECRETARY RASHAD (REPORTEDLY SABAH AL-AHMAD WILL ALSO ARRIVE FROM NEW YORK BUT WILL NOT RPT NOT LEAD DEL), AND LEBANESE MFA UNDERSECRETARY DAHDAH. QADDUMI IS ALSO IN CAIRO AND IS APPEALING PUBLICLY TO ALL TO HOLD SUMMIT WHETHER ASAD ATTENDS OR NOT, RECALLING 1970 SUMMIT MET IN ABSENCE KING HUSAIN.

6. ARAB LEQGUE SYG RIAD IS LESS THAN SANGUINE SUMMIT WILL OCCUR, AND CONINUES ASSERT TO PRESS THAT IT SHOULD BE HELD, OBSERVING THAT ONLY RESOLUTION BY ARAB FONMINS CAN TECHNICALLY CANCEL OR POSTPONE OCT. 18 MEETING. PRESS IS REPLETE WITH UNATTIRBUTED HINTS FROM "ARAB CIRCLES" THAT SYRIAN ATTITUDES HAS MADE SUMMIT IMPOSSIBLE.

7. EDITORIALS CONTINUE PREVIOUS DAY'S OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED LINE THAT SYRIA IS EXECUTING ISRAELI PLOT AND JORDAN IS FULL PARTNER IN "SINSITER SCHEME" TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINIANS FOR GOOD.

8. COMMENT: SADAT HAD PRIVATELY EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR FORLORN HOPE THAT AT THIS ELEVENTH HOUR SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO BRING ASAD TO CAIRO. SUDDEN ARRIVAL OCT. 14 IN CAIRO OF KAMAL ADHAM IS CLEARLY LINKED TO SADAT'S APPEALS DURING LAST 24 HOURS TO KHALID. WITH FAHMY AND KHADDAM BOTH DUE TO HEAD THEIR DELEGATIONS AT THIS EVENING'S CONFERENCE, AND WITH FAHMY'S HIMSELF SURFACING GOE DECISION THAT NEITHER SADAT NOR HE WILL ATTEND SUMMIT INADAD'S ABSENCE, SAUDIS (AND PERHAPS ALSO KUWAITIS) WOULD APPEAR FACE ALMOST INSUPERABLE TAS(. PROSPECTS FOR OCVENING OF SUMMIT HAVE SHARPLY DECLINED IN LAST 24 HOURS. EILTS

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